

For Immediate Release
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Air District Proposes Emission Reduction Credits for PG&E

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has made a preliminary decision to grant interchangeable emission reduction credits (IERCs) to PG&E for the Hunters Point and Potrero power plants located in San Francisco. IERC credits allow emission reductions to be banked and used as an alternative means of achieving compliance for nitrogen oxide (NOx) reduction rules.

The proposed credits are for NOx reductions achieved by installing new control systems and using low emission combustion practices beyond those required by regulations. There are three proposed IERC certificates for different credit generating periods. Each certificate has a five-year life span with the final expiration date in December 2004. The total IERCs generated at both facilities total 1,127.5 tons of NOx.

The state of California requires air pollution control districts to allow the use of IERCs to achieve compliance with certain rules. According to Air District regulations, the IERCs can only be used for NOx emission reductions at the facility where they were generated.

The public comment period will end on February 6, 2001. Comments should be directed to the:

Permit Services Division
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco CA 94109

The final decision will take into account issues raised during the public comment period. A copy of the public notice and the engineering evaluation report for the proposed PG&E credits can be found on the Air District web site at www.baaqmd.gov under "Permitting Public Notices."

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